

# The Daily Gazetteer.

MONDAY, MARCH 12. 1739.

No. 1159.

Conclusion of the Letter from a West-Country CLOTHIER on the late Riot in Wiltshire.



HE 3d Thing asserted by our Author, as the Cause of Riots, is called *Oppression of the Poor by their rich Masters*; and these Oppressions are said to be practised towards 'em in divers Shapes, viz. Entering into Combinations to lower Wages; Not paying them their Wages; or else,

Paying them in *Truck*, by Goods at an advanced Price.

As to the 1st and 2d of these relating to Combinations, or not paying 'em their Wages, I must declare myself an absolute Stranger to any such Methods of Practice; and unless the Author is capable of producing proper Vouchers for the Support of such a Charge, the Reproach must revert upon himself.

That the Workmen are able in a dull Season of Trade, when Work is scarce, &c. to make their Wages as comfortable as in a quick Time of Trade, when their Hands are full, is not to be supposed; for in the Clothing Trade, as in other Employs, the Value of Labour has its Ups and Downs, according to the Demand there is for it, the same as any other Commodity; as for Instance: On a Revival of Things, the Workman soon sees the agreeable Change, by a full Employ, and advanc'd Prices; but if the Necessity of the Times require, and the Master advertises his Servants, that he can give but 14d. per Yard, instead of 15 or 16d. must this be called *Oppression*, when at the same time the Workman is at full Liberty to make the most of his Labour elsewhere? — Again; When the Workman has finished his Piece of Work, if the Master pays him his agreed Price, what Ground of Complaint has the Workman? If the Master refuses to pay him, the Remedy is easy, by an immediate Recourse to the Magistrate, who will always do Justice to the Workman. — But if, on the contrary, the Workman has ill-wrought that Piece, or feloniously detain'd from the Master any Part of his Stuff, every such Master has a Right to expect a Reparation to be settled by a Magistrate, unless (as is frequently the Case) the Workman (rather than have his Perfidies exposed) chuses to agree the Damage with his Master, at a small Allowance: But will this be called *keeping back by Fraud, or oppressing an hired Servant*? No; so far from it, that I am apt to believe, the Lenity shewn to criminal Workmen, upon Injuries done their Masters, has been a great Cause of the several Riots and Insults made upon 'em of late Years; and am forced to conclude, that if the Clothiers, instead of expressing this false Pity to the Persons of such Offenders, had prosecuted them for Felony only, we had ere now got rid of the greatest Number of those idle and immoral Wretches, that generally turn out the Ringleaders of such Assemblies; and by this Time should have had very little to fear from a Mob.

As to the honest and industrious Part of our Work-People, we are so far from considering them as Slaves, &c. that we conclude 'em as useful Members of Society, and not only the Riches of the Kingdom, but the Means of our Support. No doubt, but the Decay of Trade must necessarily affect them; and whilst thus, it cannot but beget an additional Concern in the Mind of every conscientious Master, to see his Workman in Distress, as well as himself. And the Masters are so far from being of the Complexion the Author suggests, by making the Deadness of Trade to operate in the Oppression and Destruction of the Poor, that it's well known, the Impoverishment of many reputable Masters, is to be ascrib'd to their keeping on Business, without any other View, but their Fenderness to the Poor, and only for their Employment and Service.

For my own Part, I dread to think what would have been the Consequence of Things in the Country, had the Makers in general, who have been burthen'd with large Stocks of Goods, lessen'd their Trades in Proportion, as Prudence might have directed: What then would have became of our Poor, let the Land-holders reflect, whose Estates, without

Trade, would be found a very incompetent Provision for them!

The Clothiers are not oblig'd to carry on Trade to the Ruin of themselves and Families, as has been the Misfortune of a great many hundred Manufacturers, within a few Years, in this Kingdom: This may perhaps gratify the Envy of a few, (who can't bear to see a Tradesman live) but it cannot serve the Interest of any; for the Impoverishment of the Manufacturers, and the Loss of the Manufacture, generally go together. Some Branches of our Woollen Fabricks are quite lost, and others going along with our Wool; but very fatal to *England* will be such a Farewell of Trade, and which is apprehended to be too near upon the Crisis. And indeed there seems to be but two Things left us to apply to, as Means to preserve and increase our Foreign Trade; the one is securing our Wool from falling into our Rivals Hands; and the other, by lowering the Prices of our Workmanship: If the Clothiers apply for the former, they are answer'd, That will sink the Price of their Wool, disable their Tenants from paying their Rents, &c. And if a Reduction in the Price of Labour is attempted, we are charged by our Author with *Injustice*, and are said hereby to be driving the Poor on to this riotous Method of revenging themselves upon their Masters for their Oppressions, &c.

But there is one Thing I am led here to observe, as what must affect the Poor much more than the Penny per Yard abated, and contribute much more to the late Disorders, viz. That at the Time of the Rising, there were (as I've been inform'd) not less than 60 or 70 Looms standing still, for Want of Employment, in that Neighbourhood. — And without some Regard to be had for the Preservation of our Foreign Trade, I despair of seeing our Hands better filled; tho' I hope no one will interpret this in the Nature of a Menace, seeing we should be glad, were it in our Power, to extend our Trades, as well for our own, as our Workmen's Advantage: For the Body of Clothiers never combined, that ever I cou'd learn, either to distress the Government, our Land-holders, or the Poor. And here let me tell the Author, that the Body of Clothiers have merited a different Sort of Treatment, than to be traduc'd as Tyrants, or vilified as Oppressors; tho' I can scarce help smiling at the Weakness and Partisanship of the Author, who, tho' he won't allow of the late Method used by the Government in quelling the Insurrection of the Workmen against us, yet is, and almost with the same Breath, calling in the Aids of publick Authority to *reduce* the Masters to Order, and to *force them to do Justice, as least for the future*; who further instructs us, that both *Justice and good Policy require, that rich Oppressors should be properly punished, as well as poor Rioters*. — The Injuries and Scandal of such Hints, I shall leave to every candid Reader.

I proceed to remark our Author in what he seems so very sanguine upon, viz. the Advantage we make of Trade. — I shall not expatiate upon his whimsical and unapplicable Method of settling, and ascertaining to the Publick, *what clear Profit the Clothier has*, but give him a few Hints, which will partly serve to let him into the Secret of our Gains; and if he has Courage enough to make the Purchase, I will venture to insure him the Near Produce on Four-fifths of the Woollen Goods now made, and that have been made for seven Years past, in the three Western Counties of *Wiltshire, Somerset and Gloucester*, for *Three per Cent. per Ann.* on the Stock employ'd in those Trades. Nay, I'll go further, and engage to deliver him several Hundred Thousand Pounds worth of Woollen Goods, at *Five per Cent. less than Prime Cost*.

Tho' it's in Justice to the State of Trade, as we'll as the Characters of those Gentlemen of Worth and Honour, who are so unhappy as to have any Concern in the Business of Cloth-making, and thereby exposed to the Envy of many, and the Injuries of common Fame, to divulge these melancholy, but real Truths, as likewise to remove those unjust Apprehensions unthinking Persons are liable to fall into from the Author's laying the Cause of the late Tumults to the Account of the Clothiers, or their Oppressions, &c. less could not, much more might be

urged, and supported by great Numbers of Gentlemen out of Trade, who are best acquainted with the State of the Woollen Manufactures in *England*. So that we are obliged to call upon the Author of this Essay, to produce Facts, in Support of such a Defamation, or publickly retract, and ask Pardon of the Gentlemen he hath publicly injur'd.

I come now to consider the Article of *Trucking*. This I own to be a Practice not only illegal, but scandalous, and injurious to Trade; what is attended with worse Consequences by far to the fair Trader, than the Workman that complies with it; and what we should be glad to see an effectual Stop put to.

— But as we can't call every Thing (that's illegal) oppressive, I am fully persuaded that the Majority of the Work-People, have no Reason to complain upon this Head; nor could this be the Cause of their Rising. — For as the Workmen knows beforehand the Disadvantages on which he takes Goods in Payment, so he knows also that the Quality of the Workmanship, accepted by such Masters, generally repays him, with Interest, for the Loss he sustains upon such Goods.

I would not be understood here pleading for a Liberty of paying in Goods, and heartily wish our Laws were so strict, and the Execution of those Laws so effectual, as would remove every Ground of Suspicion and Complaint on that Head; for I am satisfy'd the Interest of the fair Trader, as well as the Reputation of the Manufacture, consists very much in preventing all such clandestine Methods in Working. And I am very glad to hear, that a Body of Clothiers in the next \* County, are so heartily disposed and ingaged to put a Stop hereto; but am afriad the Work-People are but too well reconciled to the Payments of their Trucking Masters, or they would have accepted the Offer made them, viz. That if they would but give in their Informations against such as made them Payments in Goods, the Clothiers there would assist to carry on such Prosecutions at their own Expence; and at the same Time they were promised, not only a Security from such Payments in future, but Employment too, if by such Informations they were turn'd out of Work. But, I say, were the Author to consider this in his own Light, as an Oppression upon the Workmen, yet it's stupid to affirm it the Cause of the Riot at *Melksham*, seeing neither Mr. *Colthurst*, nor any Gentleman upon whom Depredations were committed, ever made any other Payments, than in Money; and if this were the Cause of Complaint, why were any other struck at, but those who were Delinquents?

And to me it's almost as ridiculous to affirm, that the Oppressions pretended to have been in the Clothiers, could be a Cause of that riotous Assembly under any Light. Who will have the Front to say, that abating *One Penny a Yard* must, in its Consequences, bring upon the Clothiers the whole Body of Shearmen, whose Wages have been the same Time immemorial; or that such an Abatement is a sufficient Reason for the Rebellions and Plunders of Carpenters, Bricklayers, Tylers, Labourers in Husbandry, &c.? But it's easy to comprehend their Views to be Plunder; for after Mr. *Colthurst* had sign'd (or offer'd to do it) for the Price they demanded, yet this would not satiate them, nor secure him from their Violences; and it's easy to perceive, if they had not been seasonably interrupted, not only the Clothiers, but every one else would have been laid under Contributions, and have felt the dismal Effects of their Avarice and Violence.

Thus have I attempted to remove the Charges which our Author, without Truth or Conduct, has been pouring out upon the Government, its Magistrates, and the Trading Body. I am sensible my Talent is unequal to the Subject; but seeing better Hands have declin'd the Task, I hope the Candour of my Friends, for whose Service this was design'd, will indulge what is defective, it being my first Essay in publick.

I should have gone on to the Consideration of the 4th Head, which our Author says, may be the Cause of a Riot, viz. a *Spirit of Envy* and

\* From *in Somersetshire*.

Immorality diffused among the common People; and the rather I should have done this, it being the proper and only Source of every such illegal and destructive Measure. But having already carried my Remarks to a disagreeable Length, I am oblig'd to wave entering upon it.

It's very remarkable to find our Author dropping this Head, either by saying nothing on the Crime of these Rioters, or else by transferring the Guilt of all on their Masters, &c. This Ingenuity and Caution is manifest through the whole, and must proceed either from a Fear of offending the Rioters, whom he design'd to screen, or, left by his putting the Saddle on the right Horse, the Partiality and Injustice of his Charges, under the three former Heads, should be detected.

Thus do I find him excusing the Offenders, and leading the Innocent and Injured with all their Infamy. He indeed tells us, that *it is not fit Servants should be let at no to take their own Revenge against their Masters*; but then, for their Justification, immediately adds, *It's a Pity, indeed, they should be driven to it*. And proceeds to propose a Scheme for levying the Damages done by these Villains on the oppressing Clothiers, by Sums to be raised on them for their unjust and violent Doings, for their Cheats in Payments, Impositions in Rents, Combinations, and other Things, too low, inconsistent, and scandalous, to deserve Regard. I likewise intended an Examination into some others of his curious Particulars, and ridiculous Observations, such as his *erecting an Oven in every poor Tenement, settling the Price of Labour, and publishing the Prices Weekly as the Prices of Stocks are*, with that of *obliging the Clothiers that refuse to employ any turn'd-off Workman, to a Subscription of 6 d. per Week each, to be levied by Warrant of Distress &c.* I should have been apt (if I had not seen these things in a publick News-Paper) to have concluded them rather the Product of some Inhabitant in Bedlam, than a Person who has his Liberty; for I think a shav'd Head and a cool Apartment would better suit our Author's Constitution, who, tho' he calls himself a *Common-Sense Writer*, I find him as great a Stranger to Trade and good Sense, as he is to Loyalty and good Manners.

But whatever unjust Sentiments our Author may have entertain'd of the Clothiers, yet it's above all shocking to find, that such notorious Insults on our Laws, which are good and well calculated for the Support of Civil Society; yet that such Insults should even be defended, and the Insulters themselves meet with open Countenance! That Crimes of the most flagitious and destructive Nature, and amongst us unheard of, shall be patronized; nay, tho' our Properties be invaded, all Peace, good Order, and Government struck at and undermin'd, yet such Treasons shall be even abetted, and such Traitors not without an Advocate!

I am, SIR, Yours, &c.

A Manufacturer in Wilts.

#### FOREIGN PORTS.

Cadiz, Feb. 24. N. S. On the 16th arrived the Lucy, White, from Faro; and the Micklethwait, Giles, from Lisbon: On the 17th, the Mary, Woodberry, from New England; the Prince William, Fleming, from St. Schatian's; and the Speedwell, Ivy, from Lisbon: On the 21st, the Constancy, Scott, from Georgenii: On the 18th sailed the Placentia, Brooks, for Biddeford: On the 19th, the Owners Goodwill, Salmon, for Lisbon: On the 21st, the Elizabeth and Ann, White, for the Corunna; and the Bridget, Causey, for the Levant: On the 23d, the Revenge, Gordon, for the North; the Success, Day; and the Eagle, Milligen, for Genoa; the Mary, Lawfence, for London; the Sarah, Oxenham; and the Sea Nymph, Evans, for Seville.

#### HOME PORTS.

Portsmouth, March 9. Since my last came in the Mary Snow, Woodlock, from London for Cork; and sailed the Lewis Sloop, Hoadley, for St. Malo. Remain at Spithead the Grantham, Capt. Roger Hale; the Somerset, Capt. Robert Holmes; the Normanton, Capt. Reginald Kemis; the Prince William, Capt. Thomas Langworth; the Warwick, Capt. Richard Shuter; the Lynn, Capt. Charles Gilbert; and the Houghton, Capt. Philip, Worthe, all for East India and China. The three Dutch outward-bound East India Ships are put back again to Spithead: Also are at Spithead his Majesty's Ships the Augusta, Assistance, and Oxford. Wind West North West.

Deal, March 9. Wind W. In the Downs the Heaslingfield, Cook, and two Dutch Ships for East India; the Abel, Forster; and the Hothersall,

Hutchinson, for Barbados; the Prospect, Finch; and the Expedition, Priswick, for Maryland; the Titchfield, Gardener, for Jamaica; the Mercury, Glyde, for Genoa; the New Cambridge, Morris, for New England; the Swift, Legard, for the Streights; the Elliot, Pain, for Falmouth and the Streights; the Charming Jenny, Newman, for Bourdeaux; the Tom and Jack, Hempseed, for Mar-seilles; the Bee, Burford, for Lisbon; the Matra, Smith, for Oporto; the George, Daubuz, for Lisbon; the Sarah, Purchas, for Santa Cruz; the Elizabeth, Fowler, for Madeira; the Friendship, Wilson, for Africa; the Mary, Merry, for Ireland; the Vigilance, Harriott, for Seville; the Edward and Mary, Wilberfoss, for Ireland. Arrived the Forward, Magier, from Virginia; and the Betsey, Trowles, from Antigua and Ireland.

Deal, March 10. Wind N. W. blows hard. Several outward-bound Ships are failed. Came down the Oswego, Langdon, for New York; the Ann, Turner, for Jamaica; and the Mary Ann, Shubrick, for Carolina, failed through without stopping, all the Carolina Letters left behind, and several other Ship Letters.

Gravesend, March 9. Passed by the Lisbon Galley, Blackabee, from Lisbon; the Young Hendrick, Klinkert, from Amsterdam; and the Judith, Bradshaw, from Oporto.

The San Ignacio, from the Carraccas, is arrived at Cadiz.

#### LONDON.

Saturday last arriv'd a French Mail, but no material News.

Letters from Cadiz of the 24th of February N. S. mention, that the Victoria, of 60 Guns, one of the 10 Spanish Men of War, (which sailed from the Havanna the 4th of December last N. S. 6 of whom were to Convoy the Galleons from Cartagena to Porto Bello &c. and the other four were to Convoy the Azogues from Vera Cruz) is lost on the Anna-gada Shores near Puerto Rico. She was loaded chiefly with Flower.

Wr. William Adams, of Waterford Mills in Hertfordshire, Mealman, was, on the 26th past, about Five in the Afternoon, attack'd by two Highwaymen over-against Balls Park near Hertford, and robb'd of 961. 19 s. 6 d. and a Silver Watch; for which he intends to sue the Hundred of Hertford.

Last Week died at his Seat at Oving in the County of Bucks, the Hon. William Farmer, Esq; Brother to the Right Hon. the Earl of Pomfret.

Capt. Snellgrove, of Mile-end, who formerly used the Guiney Trade, is chosen Elder Brother of the Trinity House, in the room of the late Capt. Hunt.

This Day the Honourable House of Commons will wait on his Majesty with their Address of Thanks for the Convention ratified and agreed on between his Majesty and the King of Spain.

To-morrow the Rght Hon. the Lord High Chancellor will hold the Third General Seal after Hillary Term, at Lincoln's-Inn-Hall.

\*\*\* Those low and infamous Tools, of as low and infamous a Faction, the Scribblers of the Daily Post and Common Sense, having, in those Papers of Saturday last, falsely and scandalously asserted, that in the Printed List of the Names and Trades of the several Common-Council-Men of this City, which was afterwards inserted in this Paper, Virginia Merchants who trade for thirty or forty thousand Pounds a Year, are called Tobacconists, and Scarlet-Dyers honour'd with the Title of Rag-Dyers; and that the same Truth and Candour is observed thro' the whole List: Now those two honest Gentlemen are hereby called upon to name, what Virginia Merchants, and what Scarlet Dyers, are called Tobacconists and Rag-Dyers in that List? and to point out in what particular Instances the said List has deviated from Truth? and who are the Persons whose Trades are there misrepresented? which if they should omit doing, and I defy them to do it in two Instances out of the whole Number, must not the Publick think, that these worthy Common-Council-Men are abam'd of their Trades? or will they give the least Degree of Credit for the future to two such profligate Fellows as the Scribblers of the Papers above-mentioned, who have in so notorious and bare-faced a manner, in a Case so universally known, and where they can be contradicted by Thousands, published in the Face of the whole World, such a wilful, premeditated and impudent falsehood?

#### BANKRUPTS.

John Wallis and Robert Wallis, of the Parish of St. George in the County of Middlesex, Merchants and Partners.

Thomas Collins, of the City of Oxford, Vintner. Josiah Jefferys, of St. Leonard Shoreditch, Haster.

High Water this Day 2 Morning at London Bridge. 3 45 Evening 5 11

Bank Stock 144 1-half. India 170 1-half. South Sea 100 1-half. Old Annuity 113 1-4th. New ditto 110 5-8ths, 3-4ths. Three per Cent. 105. Seven per Cent. Loan 109 1-half. Five per Cent. ditto 92 1-4th. Royal Assurance 104 1-4th. London Assurance 13 1-half. African 13 1-half. India Bonds 61. 12 s. Premium. South Sea ditto 21. 103. Prem. Bank Circulation 21. 7 s. 6 d. Premium. Salt Tallies 1-half to 2 Premium. English Copper 31. 5 s. Welsh ditto 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 per Cent. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 1-half per Cent. Premium. Million Bank 122 1-half.

Custom-house, London, March 6, 1738. For S A L E, By Order of the Honourable Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs, &c.

ON Wednesday the 14th of March, 1738, at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, will be put up to Sale in the Long Room in the Custom-House, London, several Parcels of Bohea and Green Tea, raw and roasted Coffee, Brandy, Rum, Geneva, Arrack, Usquebaugh and Tobacco, (clear of all Duties) To be seen at the King's Warehouse, on Monday the 12th, Tuesday the 13th of March, and in the Morning before the Sale, between the Hours of Eight and Twelve in the Forenoon, and Three and Five in the Afternoon; where Catalogues will be delivered

To be S O L D, At East-Ashling, in the Parish of Funtington, near Chichester in Sussex, A Very good Chariot, a Pair of Coach Geldings, and a Saddle Horse; together with Two Sets of Harness. All which are to be seen at Farmer Martin's at Ashling aforesaid. N. B. The above Things are to be Sold separately or together, by reason of the Owner's Death.

Just published, (Price in Sheets Two Shillings) REFLECTIONS upon POLYGAMY, and the Encouragement given to that Practice in the Scriptures of the Old Testament. By PHILELEUTHERUS DUBLINIENSIS. Res ardua, vetustis novitatem dare, novis anchoritatem, obsoletis aitorem, obscuris lucem, fastiditis gratiam, dubius fidem, omnibus vero naturam, & natura sua omnia. Plin. ad Div. Vesp. Praef. Printed for C. RIVINOTUS in St. Paul's Church-yard, and J. OSBORN in Pater-noster-Row.

In a few Days will be published, (Beautifully Printed in Three Near Pocket Volumes, illustrated with near 100 Copper-Plates) The Fourth Edition, Revised and Corrected, of SPECTACLE DE LA NATURE: OR, NATURE DISPLAYD. Being Discourses on such Particulars of Natural History as were thought most proper to excite the Curiosity and form the Minds of Youth. Translated from the Original French. By Mr. H U M P H R E Y S. N. B. The Fourth Volume is Octavo and Twelve in the Prest, and will be published with all Expedition. Printed for J. and J. Pemberton in Fleet-street; R. Franklin in Covent-Garden; and C. Davis in Pater-noster-Row. Where may be had, lately published, in Three Volumes Octavo, The THIRD EDITION of the same BOOK, Printed upon a larger Letter, and illustrated with near One Hundred Copper-Plates.

Lately Published, The following Classicks in English, Sold by JOHN OSBORN, at the Golden Ball in Pater-noster-Row. I. THE Works of ANACREON, Translated into English Verse, with Notes Explanatory and Poetical. To which are added, The Odes, Fragments and Epigrams of Sappho, with the Original Greek placed opposite to the Translation. By Mr. Addison. Price Bound 3 s. II. The Works of PETRONIUS ARBITR in Prose and Verse. Translated from the Latin by Mr. Addison. To which are prefixed, the Life of Petronius, and a Character of his Writings by Monsieur St. Evremon. Price Bound 4 s. III. The Iliad of HOMER. Translated from the Greek into Blank Verse. By Mr. Broom, Mr. Oldisworth and Mr. Ozell. To which are added, a Preface, the Life of Homer, and Notes by Madam Dacier. Illustrated with 56 Cutts, design'd by Coppel. In Five Volumes. The third Edition. Price Bound 12 s. 6 d.

IV. The Works of VIRGIL. Translated into English Verse. By Richard, late Earl of Lauderdale. The third Edition. In two Volumes. Price Bound 4 s.

V. Odes, Epodes, and Carmen Seculare of HORACE, in English Verse. To which is prefix'd, The Life of Horace, written by Suetonius, and Translated from Dr. Bentley's Latin Edition. By Mr. Oldisworth. The third Edition. Price Stich'd 1 s.